

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST, 2011



Mission Statement:

To preserve natural resources for public use and conservation, to operate and maintain a parks system with resource oriented recreation, trails and specialty parks; and to expand the parks system for environmental and land use benefits and the health and enjoyment of Jefferson County residents.



The Jefferson County Parks Department is made up of 15 (full and part-time) employees that oversee, manage and maintain approximately 1020 acres at the 16 County Parks, 15 miles of the Glacial River Bike Trail and 182 miles of public snowmobile trails. We partner with the Wisconsin DNR through the Glacial Heritage Area to coordinate a system of county-wide water trails. Our maintenance responsibilities also include all Jefferson County owned grounds as well as flood mitigation properties.

We, as a department, are very proud of the Parks System and are happy to share with you some of the highlights from the past year.

Glacial Heritage Area

The department continues to work in partnership with the DNR on a variety of projects within the Glacial Heritage Area. Current projects include: an advertising campaign to promote the area for tourism which includes signage for trails and parks and an interurban bike trail from Watertown to the Jefferson/Waukesha county line.

We would like to thank Augie Tietz, for his continued support and dedication to the interurban bike trail project. Augie as well as the department have worked hard with the Wisconsin DNR, We Energies and the Jefferson County Corporation Counsel to establish a usage agreement. Grant funding will be applied for to cover the construction. A feasibility study agreement with the WI DNR is planned to determine the scope of the project.

Korth Park

Korth Park has received new entrance signs at the Korth Lane and Elm Point entrances. In addition, the Highway Department will be assisting our department in paving the bump outs on Korth Lane as well as the trail immediately adjacent to the shelter. The trail portion paving is necessary due to the steep grade of the trail and the maintenance issues that have been involved with erosion.



Invasive species removal continues to be a focus of the park staff as well as volunteers. The community garden plots are all rented again this year.

Dr. J. S. Garman Nature Preserve



Garman Nature Preserve contains 22 Indian mounds that have been the focus of stabilization during this past year. The parks staff is currently working to clear the trees and brush from the mounds. The department is following WI DNR and Ho-Chunk Nation guidelines for mound restoration. This will be a multi-year process.

In partnership with the City of Waterloo, a joint Stewardship Grant Application was submitted for development of a pavilion, bathrooms, trails and signage. The grant was awarded. McKay Nursery was hired for the design team. We have been working in coordination with the city and McKay. This project is designed as a multiple phase project that will be incorporated over several years.

Jefferson County Dog Park



Nestle Purina sponsored the Purina Incredible Dog Team in August, 2010. The show was enjoyed by many spectators.

The Parks Department in partnership with the City of Jefferson Parks and Recreation Department hosted the first annual Dog Days of Summer (dog swim event) at the Jefferson



Aquatic Center. 125 dogs along with their 250 owners enjoyed a day at the pool. The second annual event will be held on August 28, 2011.



Fun equipment was installed at the dog park in the large and small dog exercise area. We thank Modern Woodman for their generous donation to make this project possible.

We have now completed one year with a very part-time dog park attendant. This position has proven to be a success and a huge asset for the park with customer service, maintenance and compliance.

The Jefferson County Dog Park continues to be the recipient of numerous donations. The Parks Department is extremely grateful to the many individuals and organizations that continually provide support for this asset in Jefferson County.

Dorothy Carnes County Park



120 acres were added to this park with the purchase of the Kemmeter property on the north end of Rose Lake. After purchase, the house was listed and sold, netting more than was anticipated by the department. Currently, the land suitable for farming is being leased as farmland.



No development will occur on the property for five years.

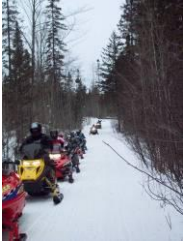
A planning process was completed for Carnes Park East, known as Mason Farm. We are thankful for the donated services of Tom Jennings and two graduate students that allowed this project to be completed.

Hearty Gardens, coordinated by Josie Gobel, continues to be a strong community activity with all garden plots being rented.

The Parks Committee has approved the installation of two rustic camping sites. Departmental staff are working on the specifics on this project and anticipate completion this fall.

The Friends of Rose Lake continue to be an instrumental part of the success of Dorothy Carnes Park. We are thankful for the educational walks that they host as well as the numerous volunteer hours they provide at the park.

Snowmobile Program



Jefferson County has 182.7 miles of public snowmobile trails. The County trails are funded by grants obtained by the Jefferson County Parks Department from the Wisconsin Snowmobile Grant in Aid Program. The Jefferson County Snowmobile Alliance works closely with the Parks Department to ensure a safe snowmobile trail system. The Parks Department was recently awarded the grant for the 2011-2012 season of \$45,675.

Bicycle Planning and Projects

The Jefferson County Bikeway and Pedestrianway Plan was updated. The new bike path along the Highway 26 expansion project is scheduled to be opened during the first part of August. Although the path is not officially open yet, it is already heavily used.



Parks Volunteer Program

The Parks Department continues to work with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department utilizing inmates as Park laborers. We thank Sheriff Milbrath and his staff for their continued partnership and support. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the volunteer hours and projects that were donated over the past year by the Friends of Rose Lake, Friends of Korth Park and local boy scouts.

Park Shelter Rentals

2011 continues to be a very strong year for park shelter rentals. Korth and Dorothy Carnes shelters continue to be the most requested. Total shelter rentals for 2011 will be greater than any previous year.

Park Endowment Fund

The Parks Department in coordination with John Molinaro and the Natural Resources Foundation has been working to establish a Park Endowment Fund for the Jefferson County Parks Department. An established fund would ensure the parks are preserved and taken care of in the future.



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